(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has agreed to an exchange of information with Sri Lanka on the environmental aspects of the Sethusamudram project. Sri Lankan experts have visited India twice for obtaining information on the issue and Sri Lankan concerns relating to environmental aspects of the project have been discussed. It has been agreed to have an arrangement for sharing relevant data which would enable them to assess and monitor the environmental impact of the project.

Fund allocation for a school in Nepal

2576. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has agreed to provide Rs. 8 million for the construction of a school in Nepal's Udaypur district;

(b) whether Government have signed any Memorandum of Understanding in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Government of India has agreed to support the construction of a school building, science lab., library and meeting hall of the Ambebar Janata Secondary School, Rajbas, Trijuga Municipality in district Udaypur of Nepal with GOI grant assistance of NRs. 1,28,07,803/- (IR. 80.04 lakh). A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on May 13, 2005 between Embassy of India, Kathandu, District Development Committee, Udayapur and the Ambebar Janata Secondary School, Rajbas, Trijuga Municipality, Udaypur for the implementation of the project.

ULFA camps in Nepal

2577. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ULFA has again set up camps in Nepal following operation All clear in Bhutan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Nepal Maoists are sharing these camps with ULFA;

(c) what steps had been initiated to desist Maoists to co-operate with North-Eastern insurgent groups; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Government is not aware of any conclusive evidence to suggest that ULFA have set up camps in Nepal.

Government of India is concerned about the security implications for India of links between Nepal's Maoists and the Indian Naxalites and other insurgent groups due to the open and unregulated border. Recognizing that the growth of Maoist insurgency in Nepal is a shared security concern, we have provided appropriate assistance to Nepal, including supply of military equipment and training. Measures have been taken for effective cross border cooperation and intelligence sharing. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has been deployed along the border to strengthen security in the border areas.

British ban on transfer of nuclear technology

2578. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Britian has refused to relax the ban on the transfer of nuclear technology to India until the signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Prime Minister during the recent visit to England, last month raised the issue with British Prime Minister and impressed upon him to remove the ban keeping in view India's credibility as a nuclear power; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the British Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government of UK is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and an active member of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG). The UK earlier had a policy of denying export licensing applications for items listed in the NSG dual use list to nuclear